



News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 31st Congressional District of California

1641 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515 | 202.225.5464 | 202.225.5467 f.

**For Immediate Release
September 24, 2002**

**Contact: Edith Robles
(202) 225-5464
Cell- (202) 225-2167**

HOUSE PASSES SOLIS' SAN GABRIEL RIVER AND MOUNTAINS STUDY BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis is pleased to announce that the House of Representatives passed her San Gabriel River Watersheds Study Act (H.R. 2534) as part of the S. 941, Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of the San Gabriel Rivers and sections of the San Gabriel Mountains to look at how the federal government can improve the area's recreational and environmental opportunities, taking into consideration flood control, drainage and public infrastructure needs.

"Today is a great day for San Gabriel Valley residents. This bill is a victory for my community because it will revitalize the San Gabriel Valley and will explore ways that we can protect and improve upon the environmental and recreational opportunities for more than two million residents, some of whom are the poorest from our society," said Solis.

According to the University of Southern California's Sustainable Cities Program, three to four acres of open or green space are needed per 1,000 people for a healthy environment. In the San Gabriel Valley, there is less than one third acre of land per 1,000 people.

"In my community, open and green space is a precious commodity. Lack of open space means a decrease in recreational opportunities and it also means a deterioration of health. It's our responsibility to protect and preserve our existing resources so that our children will not grow up with greater risk of health problems, completely surrounded by superhighways and concrete buildings," said Solis. "After a very long process of negotiations, I hope that it will pass the Senate soon. The passage of this bill will allow the federal government to work closely with local stakeholders, local officials and the community to plan and provide a healthy environment."

For the study bill to become law, the legislation must pass in both houses of Congress and be signed by President Bush. Congresswoman Solis is hopeful that her legislation will become public law before the 107th Congress adjourns later this year.

###